का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है। यद्यपि, सरकार ने अतिरिक्त क्षमता सृजित करने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं। जुलाई, 1991 में घोषित नई औद्योगिक नीति के तहत लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग को सरकारी क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित उद्योगों की सूची से निकाल दिया गया है तथा स्थान संबंधी कतिपय प्रतिबंधों की शर्तों पर इसे उद्योग (विकास एवं विनियम) अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग के प्रावधानों से भी छूट दे दी गयी है। अतः नए इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना करने के लिए औद्योगिक लाइसेंस की आवश्यकता नहीं है। मूल्य और वितरण पर से नियंत्रण समाप्त कर दिया गया है तथा लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग को उच्च प्राथमिकता प्राप्त उद्योगों की सूची में शामिल कर लिया गया है। इनमें ऐसे उद्योगों के लिए 51 प्रतिशत विदेशी साम्या निवेश हेतु स्वतः अनुमोदन तथा कुछ शर्तों सहित विदेशी प्रौद्योगिकी करारों के लिए प्रावधान हैं।

Losses of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited

1699. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (Karnataka), a subsidiary of the Steel Authority of India Limited, is soon going the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur (IISCO) way;

(b) if so, the accumulated losses sustained by it as per latest information available with his Ministry;

(c) whether it is still incurring heavy losses;

(d) if so, the reasons for VISL's affliction and what are the major factor driving South India's only integrated steel plant to the sick bay; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to save this one-time efficiently managed and profit-earning plant before it heads or a referral to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (B I F R) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (e) During the second half of the 1980's, Goverment of Karnataka requested Government of India to take over VISL as it was a sick unit requiring technological, financial and managerial support for its revitalisation. Accordingly, SAIL became a majority shareholder of the company in August 1989 after the terms and conditions of the take over were negotiated between the two Governments.

Since the take over of VISL by SAIL several technological and managerial decisions have been implemented, such as product mix improvement, widening of market base, training of manpower, which has resulted in improvement of performance in the Plant. In addition various projects have been implemented under the technological and managerial guidance of SAIL. SAIL has provided funds for VISL for improving its capital expenditure and working capital needs. Purchase and price preference was given to VISL by SAIL in purchase of ferro silicon.

As a result of the above measures, VISL showed continuous improvement in its profitability for a period of 3 continuous years after the take over as there was no cash loss. However, there have been three massive power tariff hikes by Karnataka Electricity Board since the take over, which has cast a heavy financial burden on VISL. The latest accumulated loss as per audited accounts on 31-3-93 is Rs. 66.30 crores. The main reasons for VISL's heavy losses inspite of improvement in its production and techno-economics, are the high power tariff, recession in demand of alloy steels and outmoded and obsolete technology. To make VISL financially viable, certain proposals have been drawn up, which have been taken up with Karnataka Government which holds a 40% stake in the Company. These are under discussion with the Government of Karnataka.

Iron-ore production in Chiria Iron ore Mines

1700. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR GARWALLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details regarding production of iron-ore, qurlity wise, in chiria Iron Ore Mines during the 3 years: